

Please replace any previous claims with the following set of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A handrail (18) to be attached to a tarpaulin (12) having a handlebar (22) held between two bushes (20), with the bushes each having a screw thread (26) that is inserted through the tarpaulin cloth in order to fasten them to the tarpaulin, and with which the bush can be s affixed to the tarpaulin frame.

2. (Original) The handrail as recited by claim 1, characterized in that the bush (20) has a fastening arm (24) on which the screw thread (26) is arranged.

3. (Currently Amended) The handrail as recited by claim 1 or 2, characterized in that one set collar (36) ~~that may be~~ which is slid onto the tarpaulin frame tube (16), is provided per bush, and which set collar may be affixed to the frame tube by means of a screw with an outside thread, with the screw having a sufficient length that, after the set collar has been fixed on the frame tube, the bush can still be bolted onto at the protruding portion of the screw.

4. (Currently Amended) The handrail (18) as recited by claim ~~1, 2, or 3~~, characterized in that the handlebar (22) is a tube with a round cross section.

5. (Currently Amended) The handrail (18) as recited by ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the handlebar (22) may be inserted into the bush (20) and fixed in place with a locking bolt (30).

6. (Currently Amended) The handrail (18) as recited by ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the handlebar (22) may be inserted into the bush (20) and fixed in place by means of a support spring (34).

7. (Currently Amended) A tarpaulin (12) for a boat (10), having a tarpaulin cloth

and a handrail attached to the tarpaulin, the handrail as recited by one of claims 1 to 14.

8. (Original) The tarpaulin (12) as recited by claim 7, characterized in that the tarpaulin (12) has a tarpaulin frame (16) over which the tarpaulin cloth is stretched and to which the handrail (18) is attached.

9. (Currently amended) A bush (20) that has a fastening device for mounting the bush on a boat tarpaulin (12), to which bush (20) a handrail as recited by one of claim 1s 1 to 6 may be attached.

10. (Currently Amended) The bush (20) as recited by claim 9, characterized in that the bush (20) has a screw thread (26) that is integral to the bush and a screw nut that is complementary thereto with which the bush may be is fixed into place.

11. (Currently Amended) The bush (20) as recited by claim 9, characterized in that the bush has a fastening arm (24) in which a bore with an inside thread (32) is provided and the bush (20) further includes a complementary screw that may be is screwed into the inside thread in order to fix the bush into place.